

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim [[13,]]
16, comprising three stages and further comprising:

an additional separating plate without any opening for the inlet channels for the mixed gas flow for a second stage and arranged between the second and a third stage; and

[[an]] a third apparatus for supplying an oxidizing gas to the third stage leading into an outlet channel for the mixed gas flow from the second stage.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A multistage apparatus for selective catalytic oxidation of carbon monoxide contained in a hydrogen-rich mixed gas flow, comprising:

a plurality of reaction chambers filled with a catalyst and a plurality of cooling chambers through which a coolant flows, said reaction chambers and cooling chambers being formed between successive plates and defining at least two stages in a plate stack, wherein said plates have openings that form inlet or outlet channels for the reaction chambers and for the cooling chambers, the reaction chambers being connected exclusively to inlet and outlet channels for the mixed gas flow, and the cooling chambers being connected exclusively to inlet and outlet channels for the coolant;

a separating plate without any opening for inlet channels for the mixed gas flow and arranged between said at least two successive stages; and

a first apparatus for supplying an oxidizing gas to a first stage;

a second apparatus for supplying an oxidizing gas to at least one other stage following the first stage, wherein the second apparatus leads into an outlet channel for the mixed gas flow from a preceding stage;

wherein the second apparatus for supplying the oxidizing gas is selected from the group consisting of i) a tubular probe that passes through an end plate into an outlet channel from the first stage; and ii) ~~An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the second apparatus for supplying the oxidizing~~

~~gas~~ is a tubular probe that passes through an end plate and an inlet channel for a second stage.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the second apparatus for supplying the oxidizing gas is a tubular probe that passes through an end plate of the multistage apparatus, an ~~or passes through the end plate,~~ the outlet channel from the third stage, the separating plate between the second and the third ~~stage~~ stages, an inlet channel of the second stage, and into an outlet channel from the first stage.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the third apparatus for supplying the oxidizing gas is a tubular probe that passes through an end plate of the multistage apparatus and, in an opposite direction to the mixed gas flow, through an inlet channel of the third stage, into an outlet channel from the second stage.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the third apparatus for supplying the oxidizing gas is a tubular probe that passes through ~~the supply~~ an inlet channel of the first stage and through a separating plate between the first and the second stage, into ~~[[the]]~~ an outlet channel from the second stage.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim ~~[[13,]]~~ 16, wherein the first or second apparatus for supplying the oxidizing gas is a tubular probe having a plurality of outlet openings arranged at points where individual reaction chambers enter ~~[[the]]~~ outlet channels for the mixed gas flow, in each case corresponding to a level of a reformat flow.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~plurality of~~ outlet openings are arranged radially around the probe.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~plurality of~~ outlet openings face the outlet channels.

Claim 23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A multistage apparatus for selective catalytic oxidation of carbon monoxide contained in a hydrogen-rich mixed gas flow, comprising:

a plurality of reaction chambers filled with a catalyst and a plurality of cooling chambers through which a coolant flows, said reaction chambers and cooling chambers being formed between successive plates and defining at least two stages in a plate stack, wherein said plates have openings that form inlet or outlet channels for the reaction chambers and for the cooling chambers, the reaction chambers being connected exclusively to inlet and outlet

channels for the mixed gas flow, and the cooling chambers being connected exclusively to inlet and outlet channels for the coolant;

a separating plate without any opening for inlet channels for the mixed gas flow and arranged between said at least two successive stages; and

a first apparatus for supplying an oxidizing gas to a first stage;

a second apparatus for supplying an oxidizing gas to at least one other stage following the first stage, wherein the second apparatus leads into an outlet channel for the mixed gas flow from a preceding stage;

wherein the second apparatus for supplying the oxidizing gas is selected from the group consisting of i) a tubular, coaxial probe having an inner tube which, at one end has outlet openings into an outer tube which has, on an opposite end thereof, outlet openings into an inlet channel of a stage; and ii) An apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the second apparatus for supplying the oxidizing gas is a tubular probe comprising at one end an inner tube having one or more outlet openings into a deflection device and, on an opposite end has one or more outlet openings into an outlet channel from the preceding stage.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to Claim ~~[[13,]]~~ 16, wherein the oxidizing gas from the second apparatus is supplied into an area between an outlet channel of the preceding stage and an inlet channel of the

Serial No. 09/555,899
Amendment Dated: February 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action Mailed March 4, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 225/48888

following stage, in which area gas flows from the reaction chambers are combined to form an overall volume flow.